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Girard College

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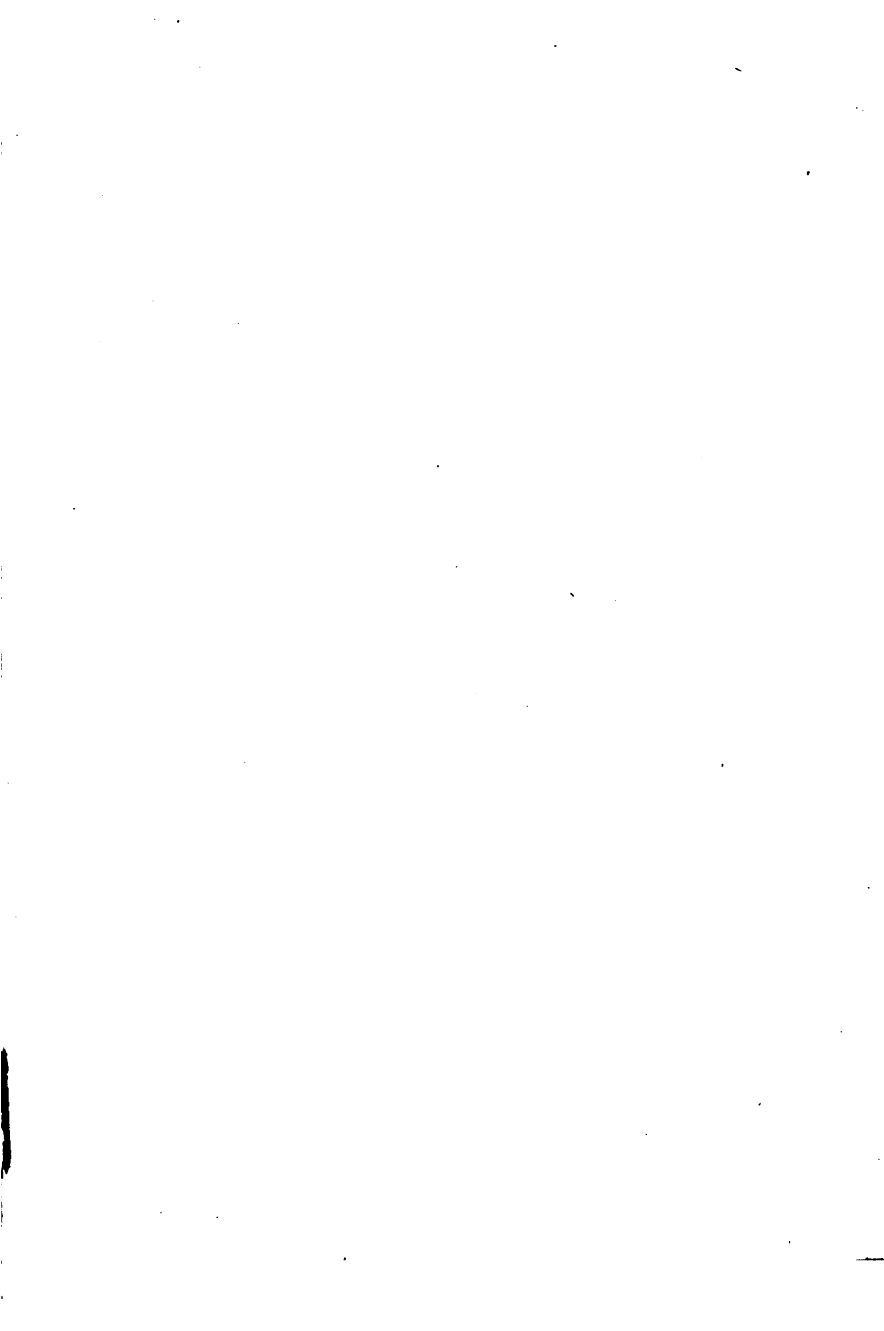
Stephen Girard

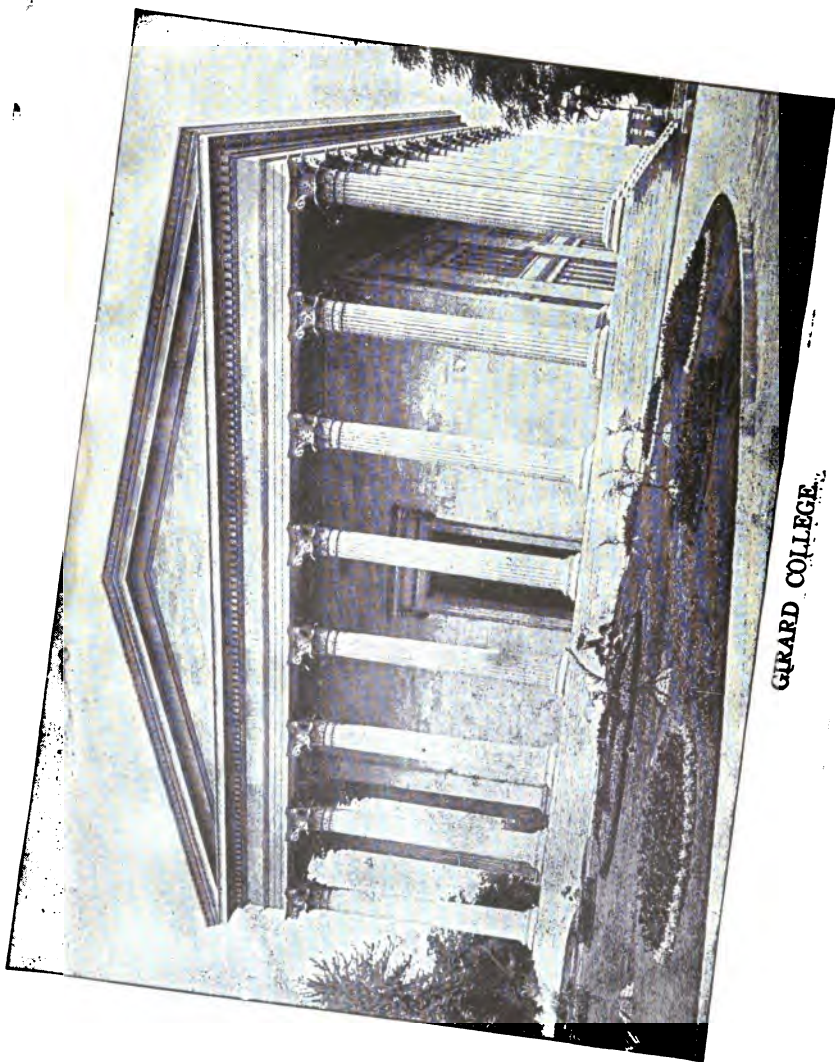
by

HENRY ATLEE INGRAM LL.B.



Philadelphia Pa.





GIRARD COLLEGE

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GIRARD COLLEGE.

TO WHICH IS ADDED A SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF
STEPHEN GIRARD, M.D.

1853

"The Life and Character of Stephen Girard.

By HENRY AILEEN INGRAM, LL. B.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

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FROM

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OUTSIDE THE GATES.

THE COLLEGE.

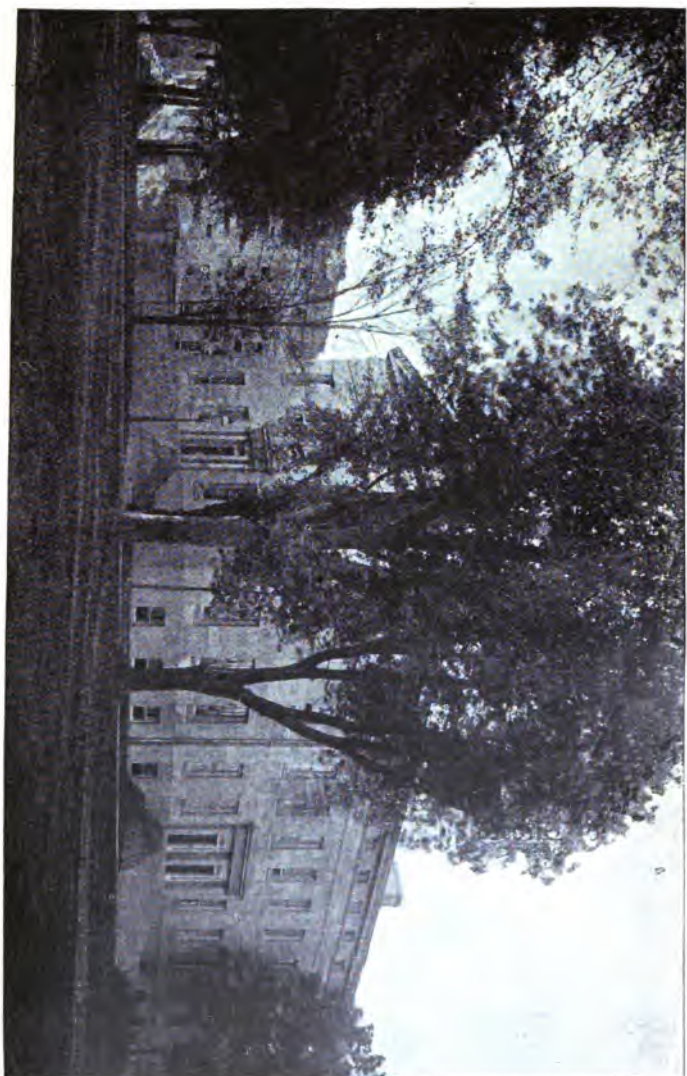
THE estate of Stephen Girard amounted, at the time of his decease, to about seven millions five hundred thousands of dollars. It was the greatest fortune known in America at that day, and was surpassed by few, if by any of the private fortunes abroad. One hundred and forty thousand dollars of this was bequeathed to members of his family; sixty-five

¹ Mainly condensed from Arey, and from the report of the architect of the Girard College. See *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Vol. XXI, p. 354, and Vols. XXII and XXIII (New Series).

The writer is also desirous of acknowledging his indebtedness to A. H. Fetterolt, Ph. D., President of Girard College, for information respecting the government of the Institution.

thousand as a principal sum for the payment of annuities to certain friends and former employés; one hundred and sixteen thousand to various Philadelphia charities; five hundred thousand to the city of Philadelphia, for the improvement of its Delaware waterfront; three hundred thousand to the State of Pennsylvania, for the prosecution of internal improvements, and an indefinite sum in various legacies to apprentices, sea-captains, who should bring his vessels in their charge safely to port, and to house-servants. He devised to the cities of New Orleans and Philadelphia two hundred and eighty thousand acres of land in Ouachita Township, State of Louisiana (subsequently lost to the legatees by a decision of the United States Supreme Court), and all the rest, residue and remainder of his estate he devised in trust to the city of Philadelphia for the following purposes: (1) To erect, improve, and maintain a College for poor, white, orphan boys; (2) To establish a better police system; and (3) To improve the city of Philadelphia, and diminish taxation. This residuary fund has since enormously increased, having grown to more than fifteen millions of dollars, yielding [1891] about one million five hundred thousand dollars gross yearly revenue.

The sum of two millions of dollars was set apart by his will for the expense of construction of the Col-



AUXILIARY BUILDINGS NUMBERS ONE AND TWO.

lege, and as soon as was practicable the executors appropriated certain securities, to that amount, for the purpose. Heavy depreciation in their value during the construction of the buildings, however, compelled recourse to be had to the residuary fund intended for the maintenance of the College, in order to insure their completion, the actual outlay for erection and finishing of the edifice being one million nine hundred and thirty-three thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and seventy-eight cents (\$1,933,821.78). Excavation was commenced May 6th, 1833, the corner-stone being laid with ceremonies on the Fourth of July following, and the completed buildings were transferred to the Board of Directors on the 13th of November, 1847. There was thus occupied in construction a period of fourteen years and six months, the work being somewhat delayed by reason of suits brought by the heirs of Girard against the estate. The design adopted was substantially that furnished by Thomas U. Walters, an architect elected by the Board of Directors after the rejection of advertised-for competing plans. Some modifications were rendered advisable by the change of site directed in the second codicil of Girard's will, the original purpose having been to occupy the square bounded by Eleventh, Chestnut, Twelfth, and Market Streets, in the heart of the city of Philadelphia. But Girard



AUXILIARY BUILDINGS NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR.

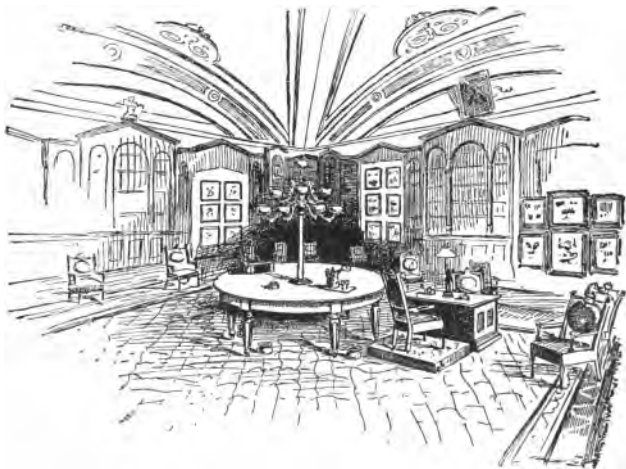
having, subsequently to the first draft of his will, purchased for thirty-five thousand dollars¹ the William Parker farm of forty-five acres, on the Ridge Road, known as the "Peel Hall Estate," he directed that the site of his College should be transferred to that locality, and commenced the erection of stores and dwellings upon the former plot of ground, which dwellings and stores form part of his residuary estate.

The College proper closely resembles in design a Greek temple in white marble, the material for the construction of which was chiefly obtained from quarries in Montgomery and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania, and at Egremont, Massachusetts. A broad platform, approached on every side by eleven marble steps, supports the main body of the building, and its surrounding colonnade of thirty-four Corinthian columns, which latter aid in withstanding the thrust of the massive arches which support the marble roof. The building measures one hundred and fifty-two feet in width, and two hundred and two feet in length on the ground, and is ninety-seven feet in height. The columns are six feet in diameter and fifty-five feet in height, the diameter of the corner columns being increased one and one-half inches in order to overcome the apparent reduction of size arising from their insulated position. The bases are nine feet three inches in diameter and three feet two inches high, and the capi-

¹ Professor William Wagner, Lecture II.

tals are eight feet six inches high and nine feet four inches wide on the face of the abacus. Each shaft as well as the bases, consists of a single piece without vertical joints, the total weight of each column being one hundred and three tons and the cost twelve thousand nine hundred and ninety-four dollars.

The roof is composed of marble tiles four feet and one-half long, four feet wide, and two and three-fourths

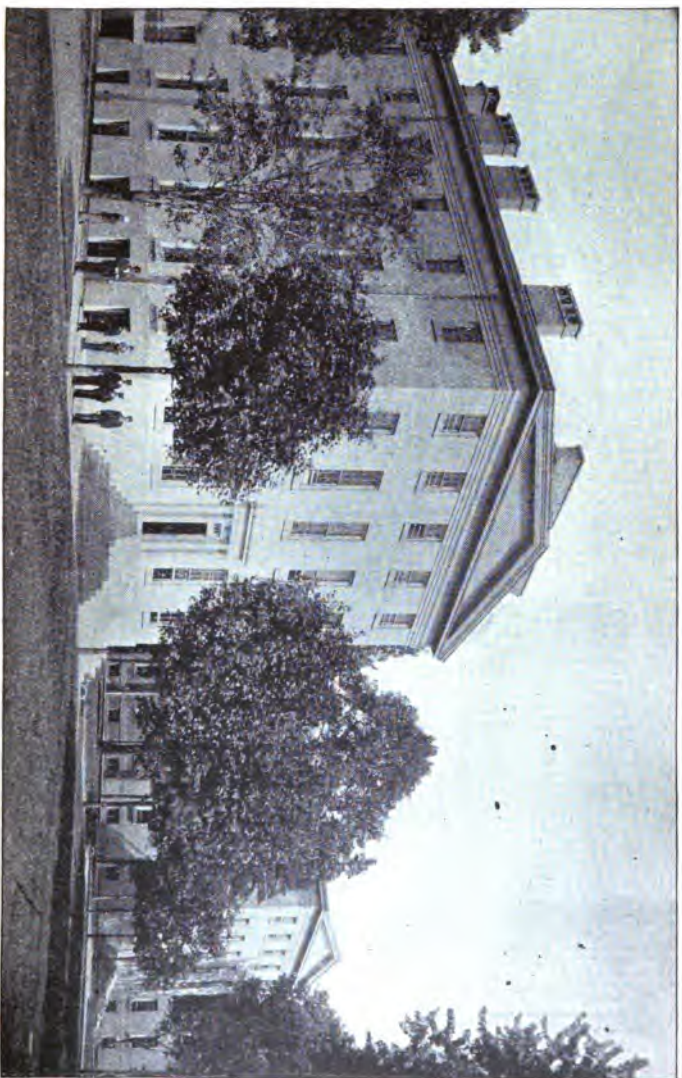


THE BOARD ROOM—MAIN BUILDING.

inches thick, the joints covered with a marble saddle hollowed on the under side to embrace ridges left on the edges of adjacent tiles. Each tile overlaps the one below six inches, and the under side is grooved and fitted to corresponding ridges and projections on the surface, thus preventing the admission of water from beating rains or capillary attraction. The tiles rest

on nine-inch brick walls. They are two thousand and forty-six in number, the aggregate weight of the roof being nine hundred and sixty-nine and one-half tons, exclusive of the brick walls supporting it. The gutters are of brick and flagstones, laid in hydraulic cement and covered with heavy milled lead. Every block of marble in the building is set on pieces of milled lead, in order to prevent fracture at the joints, and each stone is doweled into the stones above and below and at each end, and also securely cramped to the brick work and to the adjacent stones by means of heavy cramp irons. The ceiling of the peristyle is of cast iron, enriched with deep sunken panels, and, with the balustrades and skylights, is the only portion of the building proper that is not of stone or brick. The floor of the peristyle is of white marble accurately jointed, and the thrust of the interior arches forming the roof and floors is taken up by five huge chains of wrought iron, completely encircling the *cella* and built into the masonry of its walls at various heights from the base. The building covers an area of thirty-four thousand three hundred and forty-four superficial feet, exclusive of the steps, the total weight being seventy-six thousand five hundred and ninety-four and one-half tons, and the average weight resolved on each superficial foot of foundation being about six tons.

The building is three stories in height, the first and



AUXILIARY BUILDINGS NUMBERS FIVE AND SIX.

second being twenty-five feet from floor to floor, and the third thirty feet in the clear to the eye of the dome, the doors of entrance being in the north and south fronts, and measuring sixteen feet in width and thirty-two in height. The walls of the *cella* are four feet in thickness, and are pierced on each flank by twenty windows. At each end of the building is a vestibule, extending across the whole width of the interior, the ceilings of which are supported on each story by eight columns, whose shafts are composed of a single stone. Those on the first floor are Ionic, from the temple on the Illusus, at Athens; on the second, a modified Corinthian, from the Tower of Andronicus Cyrrhestes, also at Athens, and on the third, a similar modification of the Corinthian, somewhat lighter and more ornate. In each vestibule two flights of "geometric stairs" lead to the floor above, these stairs having one end of each step built into the wall, and the lower edge of each supported by the step below, thus doing away with the necessity of support for the outer end. The whole of these steps, columns, and floors is of white marble, the floor-tiles being accurately jointed to prevent loosening. Each floor is divided into four rooms, each fifty feet square, vaulted with brick, those of the first and second stories having groined arches, and those of the third story penden-

tive domes springing from the floors. The reverberation of sound in these rooms caused by their arched ceiling is obviated by false ceilings of canvas stretched over a light wooden frame.

The building, including the vestibules, the cellars, and the space under the exterior steps, is warmed by means of steam, and each room is ventilated by registers, which open from near the ceiling into the main flues.



THE TECHNICAL BUILDING.

There are ten auxiliary buildings devoted to school-rooms, dormitories, etc., all of which, together with the handsome Gothic chapel, are built of white marble. The first four of these auxiliary buildings were constructed under the directions of Girard's will, the others having been added from time to time as necessity arose. They are roofed with copper, slate, or tin, the stairways in the four original build-

ings being of marble, with wrought-iron balustrades, and those in the buildings subsequently added of iron and slate. There is also a "Technical Building," which, with the buildings designed for boiler-houses, laundries, and offices, is constructed of plainer stone in a thoroughly substantial manner.

The purposes to which the auxiliary buildings are devoted, are as follows :

To the east of the College building proper, auxiliary Building No. 1, divided into four distinct dwelling-houses, contains the residences of the President, the Vice-President, certain of the professors, and of the teachers.

Auxiliary Building No. 2, also situated east of the main building, contains "section" and school-rooms, prefects' room, linen-room, and dormitories. It has, besides, in common with every other building in the Institution containing dormitories, lavatories and a large swimming-pool in the basement. Each section-room throughout the College, it is worthy of remark, is provided with a library suited to the average age of the pupils to which it is devoted, and these section-rooms are further used by the boys when out of school for purposes of study and in-door recreation.

West of the main building, the first object of interest, standing midway between it and Building No. 3, is the monument erected by the Board of Directors to the

memory of former Girard College boys killed in the War of the Rebellion.

A life-size soldier's figure, facing southward, finely



IN MEMORIAM."

wrought in marble, stands "at rest" beneath a canopy of Ohio sandstone. This canopy is supported by four columns of the same material rising from a sandstone

base, which, in its turn, is supported by a sloping foundation of granite, overgrown with ivy. Tablets on each of the four sides of this base bear suitable inscriptions, that upon the southern front reading:

Erected A. D. 1869,
To Perpetuate and Record the Services
of the
Pupils of this College,
who,
In the Recent Contest
for the
Preservation of the American Union,
died
That their Country Might Live.

*"Fortunati omnes! Nulla dies unquam memori vos
eximet aevo."**

That upon the north bears the following extract from Girard's will:

"And Especially Do I Desire, That By Every Proper Means, A Pure Attachment to our Republican Institutions, And To The Sacred Rights Of Conscience, As Guaranteed By Our Happy Constitutions, Shall Be Formed And Fostered In The Minds Of The Scholars."

The remaining two tablets bear the names of those who died in camp, hospital, prison, or in active

*Fortunate, all! No day shall e'er remove you from a mindful age.



AUXILIARY BUILDING NUMBER SEVEN.

service upon the battle-field, the names of the various battles being also recorded.

The first building to the west of the College, auxiliary Building No. 3, contains dormitories, school, prefects', servants' and store-rooms, and adjoins auxiliary Building No. 4, which also contains dormitories, section, and seamstress' rooms, and in the basement of which is a room devoted to the College band and drum corps. Membership in this corps is highly appreciated by the scholars, those who display musical inclinations being given weekly instruction in band music by a competent teacher, with highly satisfactory results.

The various offices of the President, Vice-President, and Steward are in auxiliary Building No. 5, which also contains dormitories, section, and linen-rooms, while Building No. 6, known as the Infirmary, contains the College medical headquarters, dispensary, dentist's, medicine, treatment, and sitting-rooms, with dormitories, a parlor, nurses', store, and linen-rooms.

The most extensive of all the auxiliary buildings, known as Building No. 7, was designed by a graduate of the College. It has a frontage of four hundred feet, containing over ninety rooms, including dormitories, section, school, and dining rooms for the younger scholars; matron's, assistant matron's, governess', teachers', seamstress', shoe-

blackening, and servants' rooms. It is immediately opposite and facing Building No. 8, which latter contains the main dining hall of the College, which will seat with ease more than one thousand persons, together with the new kitchen, fitted up with improved ranges and steam cooking apparatus. The armory and drill-room of the College Cadet Corps is also in



"NO LAGGARDS HERE!"

this building, the front part of which is devoted to dormitories, governess', and matron's rooms and parlors, the entire structure containing about fifty rooms.

Auxiliary Building No. 9, adjoining, includes dormitories, section, school, governess', and seamstress' rooms, and, with Building No. 10, completes the list

of auxiliary buildings. This last, also designed by a former pupil of Girard College, was finished for occupancy in 1890, about one-half its cost having been defrayed by the bequest, with accumulations, of Lawrence Todd, of Illinois, which fact is set forth on a brass tablet at one of the entrances. The basement is intended for a play-room in wet weather, and the third floor contains two large rooms, one of which is fitted up as a hall for lectures to the scholars and for evening entertainments, the remainder being devoted entirely to school-rooms.

In the year 1882, technical instruction was introduced in the College, and in the following year was erected the "Technical Building," which stands at the western end of the grounds. This building contains a foundry and is equipped with steam power and the necessary machinery and tools, and here all scholars of a certain grade are required to spend five hours a week. Instruction is given in the use of both metal and wood-working tools, and there is included a department of mechanical drawing and of shoemaking, in which latter the scholars' shoes are mended and where many of them are also made.

But the building which will attract most attention, after the main College edifice, is the beautiful Gothic chapel, erected in 1867. The exercises in this chapel, of an entirely non-sectarian character, are daily at-

tended by officers and pupils, and consist of singing, reading the Scriptures, and of prayer. Religious instruction is given on Sundays, through addresses by the President of the College or by a specially invited layman, the single endeavor being to inculcate moral and religious sentiments, distinct from sectarian tenets.



"WHEN WINTER REIGNS."

The chapel contains a beautiful memorial window to a former College President, William H. Allen, LL. D., presented by graduates of the College.

A bathing pool in the western portion of the grounds affords amusement to the pupils in summer and opportunity both for swimming and skating, instruction in

which is provided. It also supplies ice to fill the adjacent ice-house, while a well sixteen feet in diameter, the water from which is forced by means of a steam engine into four iron tanks or reservoirs, provides the water used in the Institution. The out buildings are heated by steam, furnished by pipes carried through tunnels from a boiler-house in the rear of Building No. 5, and the Institution is supplied with gas from the city works, as well as provided with facilities for electric lighting, the current being furnished by dynamos on the premises. Seven electric light towers, each one hundred and twenty-five feet high, surmounted by six arc lamps of one thousand two hundred candle-power apiece, serve to illuminate the grounds after night-fall, and pursuant to the directions of Girard's will the entire Institution is surrounded by a wall sixteen inches in thickness and ten feet in height, strengthened by spur piers on the inside and capped with marble coping, the length of which is six thousand eight hundred and forty-three feet, or somewhat more than one and one-quarter miles. This wall is pierced on the southern side, immediately facing the south front of the main building, for the chief entrance, this last being flanked by two octagonal white marble lodges, between which stretches an ornamental wrought-iron *grille*, with wrought-iron gates, the whole forming an approach in keeping with



AUXILIARY BUILDING NUMBER EIGHT.

the large simplicity of the College itself.

The site upon which this latter is erected corresponds well with its splendor and importance. It is elevated considerably above the general level of the surrounding buildings, and forms a conspicuous object, not only from the higher windows and roofs in every part of Philadelphia, but from the Delaware River many miles below the city, and from eminences far out in the country. From the lofty marble roof the view is also exceedingly beautiful, embracing the city and its environs for many miles around, and the course, to their confluence, eight miles below, of both those noble rivers which enclose the Quaker City.

The history of the Institution commences shortly after the decease of Girard, when the Councils of Philadelphia, acting as his trustees, elected a Board of Directors, which organized on the 18th of February, 1833, with Nicholas Biddle as Chairman. A Building Committee was also appointed by the City Councils on the 21st of the following March, in whom was vested the immediate supervision of the construction of the College, an office in which they continued without intermission until the final completion of the structure.

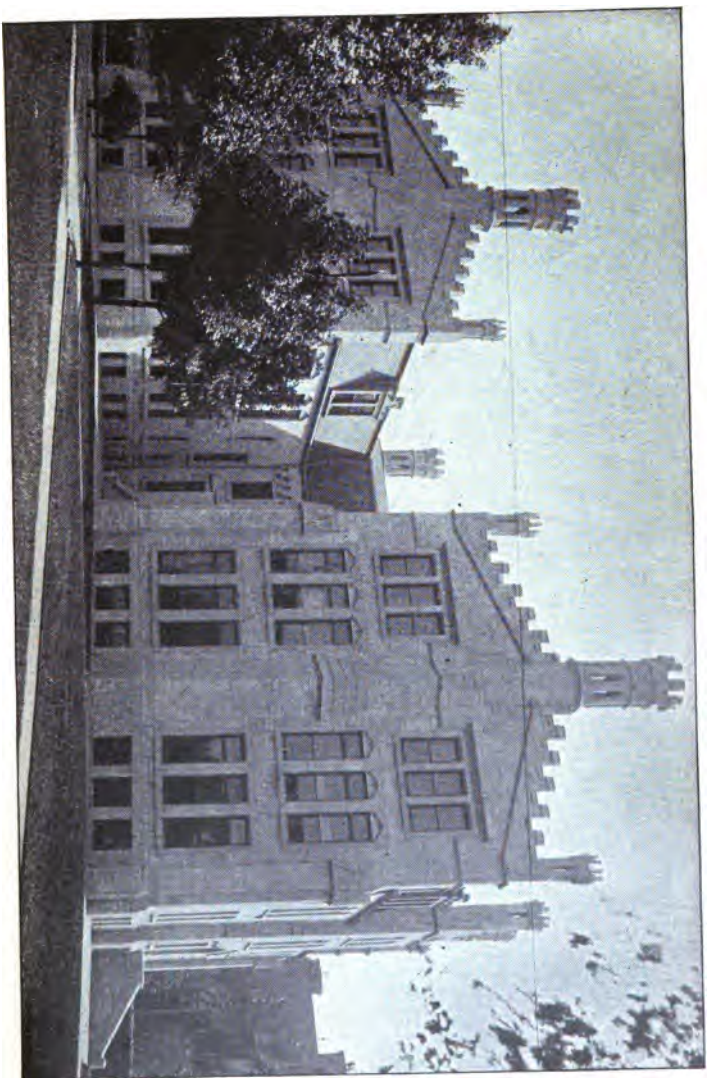
On the 19th of July, 1836, the former body, having previously been authorized by the Councils so to do, proceeded to elect Alexander Dallas Bache President of the College, and instructed the latter to visit



AUXILIARY BUILDING NUMBER NINE.

various similar institutions in Europe, purchasing the necessary books and apparatus for the school, both of which he did, making an exhaustive report upon his return in 1838. It was then attempted to establish schools without awaiting the completion of the main building, but competent legal advice being unfavorable to the organization of the Institution prior to that time, the idea was surrendered, and difficulties having meanwhile arisen between the Councils and the Board of Directors, the ordinances creating the Board and authorizing the election of the President were repealed.

In June, 1847, a new Board was appointed, to whom the buildings were transferred, and on December 15th, 1847, the officers of the Institution were elected, the Hon. Joel Jones, President Judge of the District Court for the City and County of Philadelphia, being chosen as President. On January 1st, 1848, the College was opened with a class of one hundred orphans, previously admitted, the occasion being signalized by appropriate ceremonies. On October 1st of the same year one hundred more were admitted, and on April 1st, 1849, an additional one hundred, since when others have been admitted as vacancies have occurred, or to swell the number as facilities have increased. The College now (1892) contains about eighteen hundred pupils.

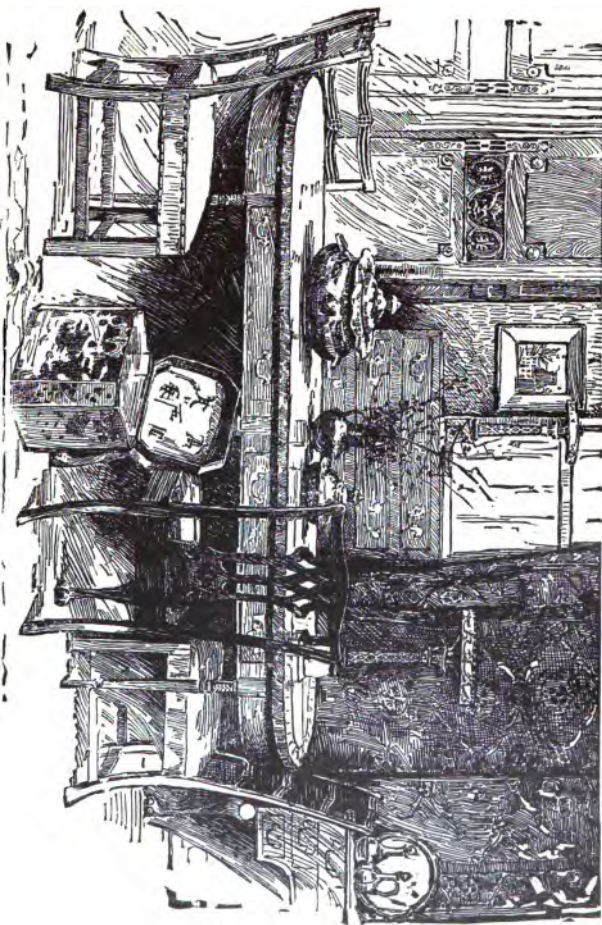


AUXILIARY BUILDING NUMBER TEN.

On June 1st, 1849, Judge Jones resigned the office of President of the College, and on the 23d of the following November William H. Allen, LL. D., Professor of Mental Philosophy and English Literature in Dickinson College, was elected to fill the vacancy. He was installed January 1st, 1850, but resigned December 1st, 1862, and Major Richard Somers Smith was recalled from active service in the United States Army to fill his place. Major Smith was inaugurated June 24th, 1863, and resigned in September, 1867, Dr. Allen being immediately re-elected and continuing in office until his death, on the 29th of August, 1882.

The present incumbent, A. H. Fetterolf, Ph. D. (Lafayette), under whose care the census of the pupils has increased from about nine hundred to nearly double that number, was elected December 27th, 1882, by the Board of Directors, the members of which body are no longer elected by the Councils, but appointed by the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas of the City of Philadelphia. The Board has a membership of fifteen, twelve of whom are appointed for life, the number being completed by three Directors *ex-officio*, viz.: The Mayor of the city of Philadelphia and the respective Presidents of the Select and Common Councils. Its meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

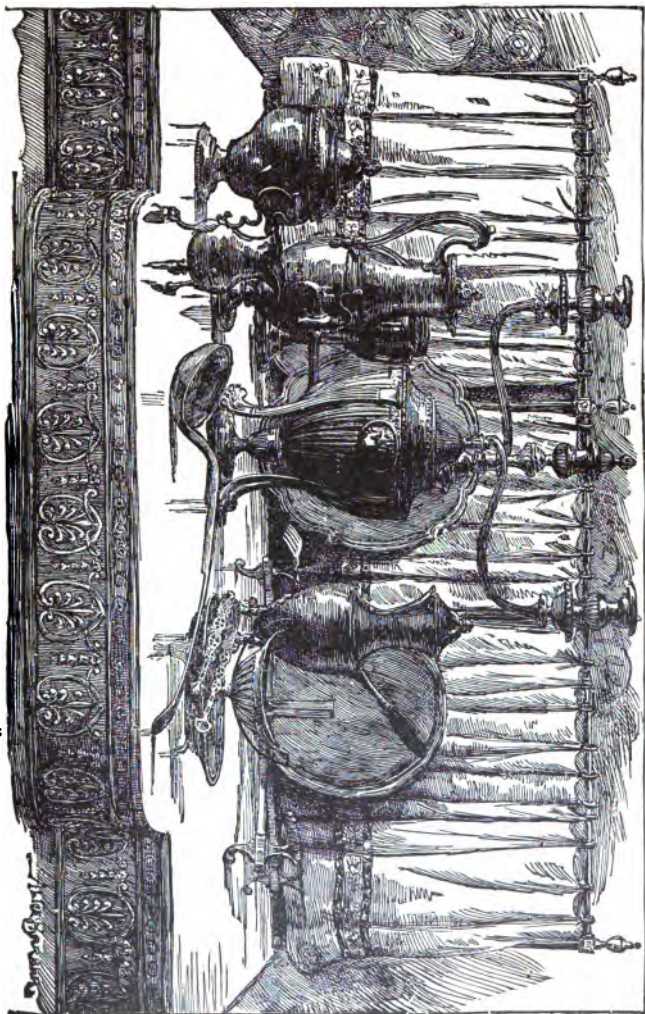
BRIC-A-BRAC MEMORIALS OF GIRARD.



It has been determined by the Courts of Pennsylvania that any child having lost its father is properly denominated an orphan, irrespective of whether the mother be living or not.¹ This construction has been adopted by the College, the requirements for admission to the Institution being as follows: (1) The orphan must be a "poor white male," between six and ten years of age, no application for admission being received before the former age, nor can he be admitted into the College after passing his tenth birthday, even though the application has been made previously; (2) the mother or next friend is required to produce the marriage certificate of the child's parents (or, in its absence, some other satisfactory evidence), and also the certificate of the physician setting forth the time and place of birth, and which must state the name of the orphan; (3) a form of application looking to the establishment of the child's identity, physical condition, morals, previous education, and means of support, must be filled in, signed, and vouched for by two respectable citizens. Personal applications may be made any day, except Sunday, at the office, No. 19 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia, between the hours of nine and twelve A. M., though where the applicant resides at such a distance from Philadelphia

¹*Soohan vs. Philadelphia*, reported in 1 Grant's Cases 505, and in 9 Casey 20.

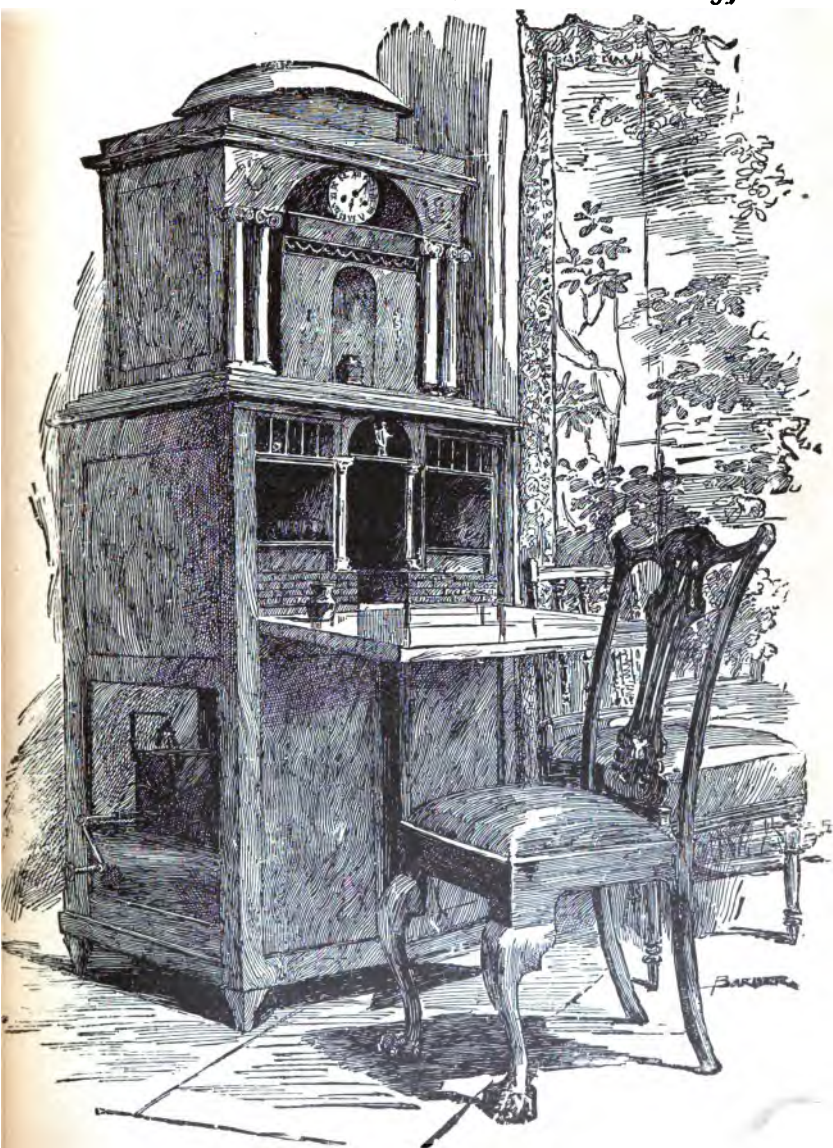
"THE TABLE WAS SET WITH MUCH SOLID SILVER."



as to make personal presence impracticable, a blank form is furnished, the statements made in which must be verified by affidavit before a judge or magistrate of the county of residence.

A preference is given under Girard's will to (a) orphans born in the city of Philadelphia; (b) those born in any other part of Pennsylvania; (c) those born in the city of New York; (d) those born in the city of New Orleans. The preference to the orphans born in the city of Philadelphia is defined to be strictly limited to the old city proper, the districts subsequently consolidated into the city having no rights in this respect over any other portion of the State.

Orphans are admitted, in the above order, strictly according to priority of application, provided the orphan has not become ten years of age while awaiting admission, the mother executing an indenture binding the orphan until twenty-one years of age to the city of Philadelphia, Trustee under Girard's will, as an orphan to be educated and provided for by the College. Food, clothing, and instruction are provided wholly by the Institution. Each orphan has three suits of clothing, one for every-day use, one somewhat better, worn when visiting home, and a "best suit," usually reserved for Sundays. All clothing and underclothing is kept in order by seamstresses at the



JOSEPH BUONAPARTE'S GIFT TO GIRARD

College. No distinctive dress is ever to be worn ; and although the orphans reside permanently in the College, they are, at stated times, allowed to visit friends at the latter's houses and to receive visits from their friends at the College. The household is under the care of a matron, an assistant matron, sixteen prefects, and twenty-four governesses, who superintend the moral and social training of the orphans and administer the discipline of the Institution when the scholars are not in the school-rooms ; this discipline consists almost entirely of admonition and deprivation of privileges, although in extreme cases corporal punishment may be inflicted by order of the President and in his presence. Under Girard's will the right to summarily dismiss a pupil who is found to be an unfit companion for the rest is vested in the Board of Directors. Slight offenses or derelictions are punished by "keeping in " after school in the section rooms twenty minutes for each demerit mark. The pupils are divided into sections for convenience of government, which sections have distinct officers, buildings, and ample playgrounds. Among the smaller boys forty and among the larger seventy pupils constitute a "section." A limited number of the pupils receive weekly instruction in the manual of arms, and reviews and parades are held on the Drill Ground in the rear of the main College structure every Friday afternoon at



THE POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE OF WAR.

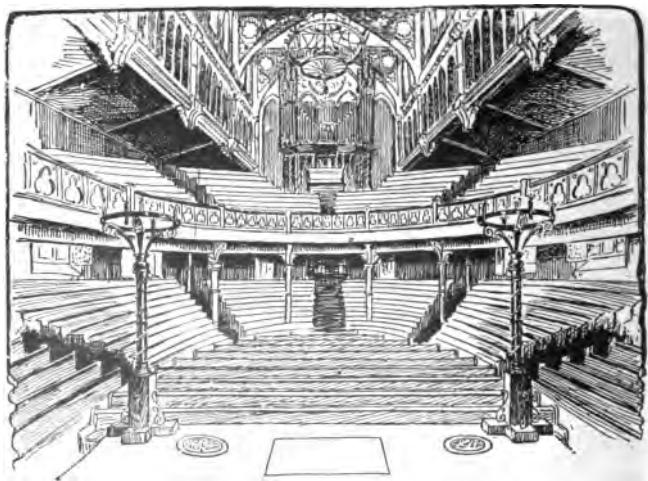
four P. M., to which visitors are admitted, the College Band and Drum Corps furnishing the music upon these occasions.

The schools are conducted principally, though, as has been indicated, not entirely, in the main College building, five professors and fifty-nine teachers being employed in the duties of instruction, and the course comprises a thorough English commercial education, to which are added the special courses of technical instruction in mechanical arts. Since a large proportion of the orphans admitted into the College have had little or no preparatory education, the instruction commences with the alphabet, and includes during the first year, spelling, reading, writing, drawing (on slates), primary arithmetic, and object lessons.

The order of daily exercises is as follows: The pupils rise at six o'clock, take breakfast at half-past six. Recreation until half-past seven; then assemble in the section rooms at that hour, and proceed to the Chapel for morning worship at eight. The Chapel exercises consist of singing a hymn, reading a chapter from the Old or New Testament, and prayer, after the conclusion of which the pupils proceed to the various school-rooms, where they remain, with a recess of fifteen minutes, until twelve. From twelve until the dinner-hour, which is half-past twelve, they are on the playground, returning there after finishing that meal,



until two o'clock, the afternoon school-hour, when they resume the school exercises, remaining, without intermission, until four o'clock. At four the afternoon service in the Chapel is held, after which they are on the playground until six, at which hour supper is served. The evening study hour lasts from seven to eight, or half-past eight, varying with the age of the pupils, the same difference being observed in their



AD HONOREM DEI.

bedtimes, which are from half-past seven for the youngest until a quarter before nine.

On Sunday the pupils assemble in their section rooms at nine o'clock in the morning, and at two in the afternoon for religious reading and instruction, and at half-past ten o'clock in the morning, and

at three in the afternoon, they attend Divine worship in the Chapel.

There is a College vacation of two months in the summer, during which time scholars are permitted to visit relatives and friends, provided two weeks of this time is passed in the country. Those who remain at the College during vacation are taken upon various excursions by the officers and matrons, and are not required to study, even when on the College grounds, being permitted to amuse themselves at discretion.

Two other holidays are observed at the College—the quarterly “Mothers’ Day,” upon the first Tuesday in every third month; and, most important, the anniversary of the birth of Girard, on the 20th of May, at which latter time a general reassembling of graduates from all parts of the country takes place, games are played, the cadets parade, and the celebration reaches a climax in the ample and excellent dinner provided for both scholars and invited guests.

The annual cost per capita of maintaining, clothing, and educating each pupil, including current repairs to buildings and furniture and the maintenance of the grounds, is about three hundred and twelve dollars, and those scholars who merit it remain in the College until between fourteen and eighteen years of age, at the discretion of the Board. Between these ages they are indentured by the Institution, on behalf of “The

City of Philadelphia," to learn some "art, trade, or mystery," until their twenty-first year, consulting, as far as is judicious, the inclination and preference of the scholar. The master to whom an apprentice is bound agrees to furnish the latter with sufficient meat, drink, apparel, washing, and lodging at his own place of residence (unless otherwise agreed to by the parties to the indenture and so indorsed upon it); to use his best endeavors to teach and instruct the apprentice in his "art, trade, or mystery," and at the expiration of the apprenticeship to furnish him with at least two complete suits of clothes, one of which shall be new. Scholars not dismissed receive an outfit upon leaving the College, consisting of a trunk, with clothing and books to the approximate value of seventy-five dollars. After indenture the apprentice is occasionally visited by an officer of the College to see that he is being properly cared for and instructed, and should this not prove to be the case, the apprentice is taken back to the College. The pupils cannot remain in the College after attaining the age of eighteen years, however, in any event, and in case of death friends have the privilege of removing the body for interment at the cost of the College, though should this not be preferred, it is interred in the College burial-lot at Laurel Hill Cemetery, near Philadelphia. It may be stated that the mortality among the scholars has always been remarkably small.

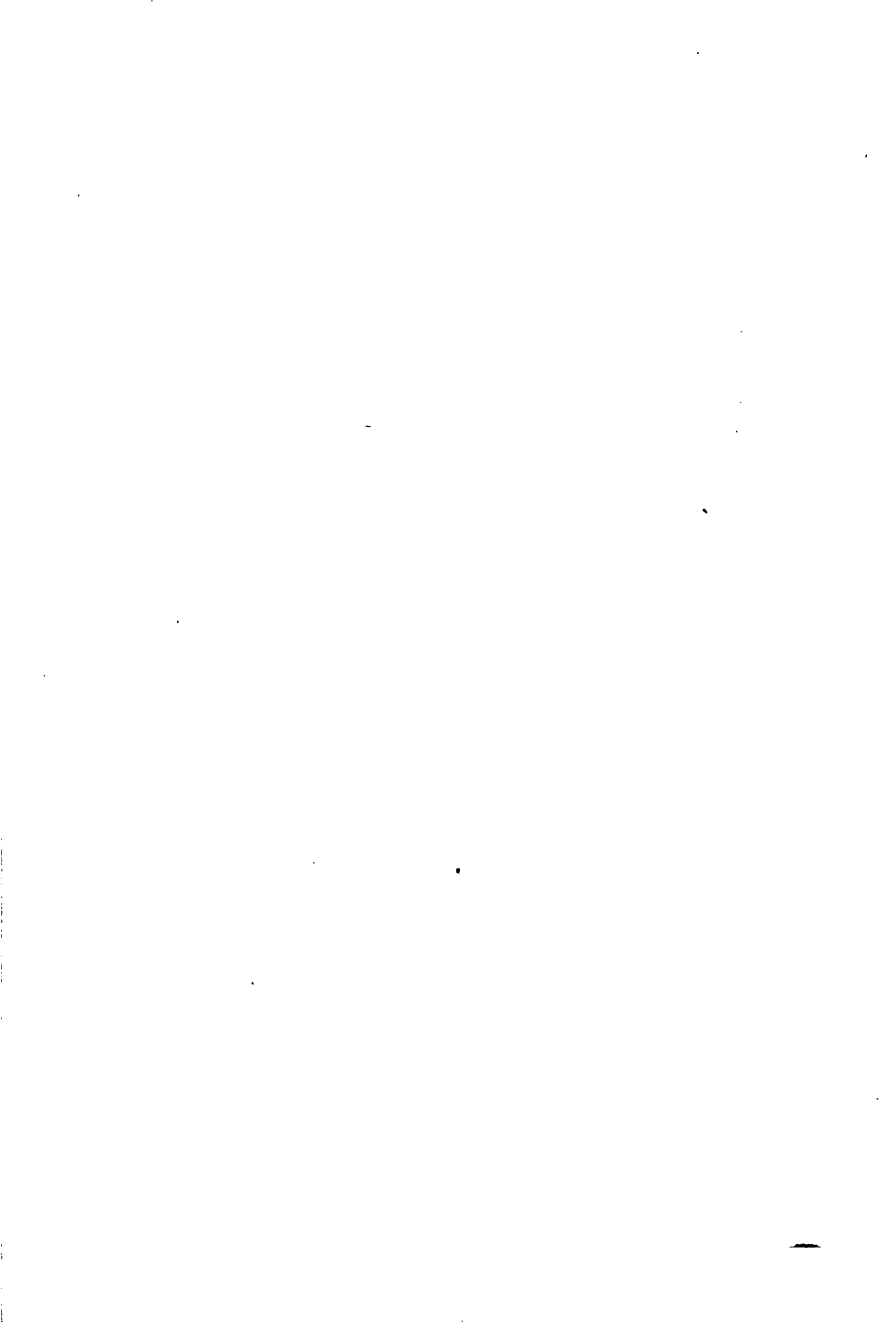


"A CITY SET ON A HILL," CAMPUS AND COLLEGE STREET LOOKING EAST.

Permits to visit the College on the afternoon of every weekday can be obtained from any Director, from the Mayor of Philadelphia, at City Hall, Broad and Market Streets, Philadelphia; at the office of the Board of City Trusts, Stephen Girard Building, No. 19 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia; or at the office of the *Public Ledger* newspaper, at Sixth and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia. Passes obtained from the *Public Ledger* office, however, will not admit visitors on Fridays, that being "Battalion drill day." Especial courtesy is shown all foreign visitors, and particularly to those interested in educational matters, in whose favor the rigidity of the above rules is invariably relaxed.



THE "WATER WITCH" IN THE COUNTING-HOUSE RAILING.





Potre tras hum ble servituu
Steph^r Girard

DEPARTEMENT DE LA GIRONDE.

MAIRIE DE LA VILLE DE BORDEAUX.



ETAT CIVIL.

Extrait du Registre des actes de *Baptême*
de l'an 1750.

J'au mil sept cent cinquante et six
viént en son may, je soussigné, ai baptisé
un enfant légitime de Pierre Girard, —
capitaine de navire, habitant au port aux
parois de Neuilly en de Anne Lafargue
Cet enfant est né le jour précédent en
luy a donné le nom de Etienne son
parrain a été Etienne Fleiss, bourgeois de
Bordeaux et la marraine Anne Lafargue
qui ont signé avec nous.

Signé au registre Girard, parrain, Fleiss, parrain
Anne Lafargue et Coiffeur, vicairie

Sur extrait conforme

délivré au Hôtel de ville le 26 juin 1857.



Le Maire de Bordeaux
Chiffre

CERTIFICATE OF BAPTISM OF STEPHEN GIRARD.

LIFE OF STEPHEN GIRARD.

STEPHEN GIRARD was born on the 20th of May, 1750, in the Rue Ramonèt aux Chartrous, near the city of Bordeaux, France. He was the eldest



PIERRE GIRARD'S CROSS OF SAINT LOUIS.

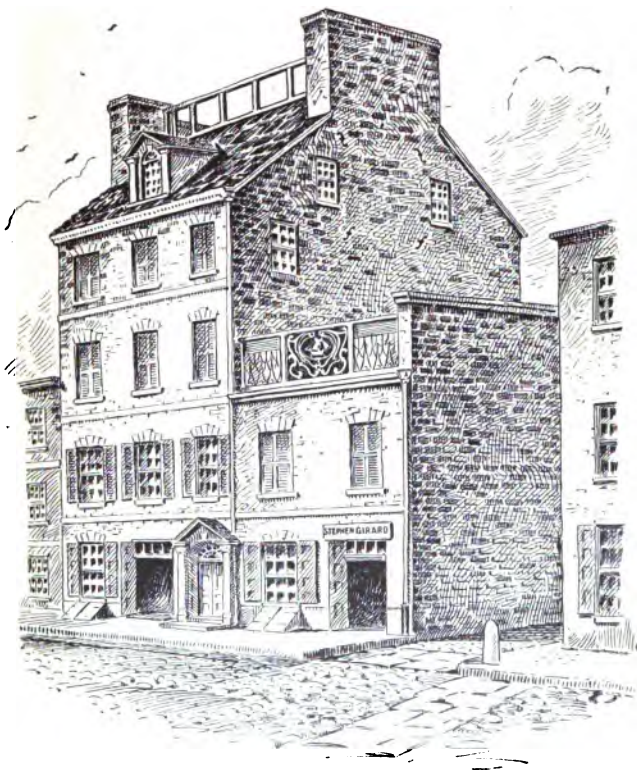
son of Pierre Girard, Knight of Saint Louis, and of Anne Marie Lafargue, his wife ; Pierre Girard having been a native of Périgueux, in the Dordogne, the owner

of several vessels, and an ex-officer in the Royal Navy.

Beyond question, Stephen's predilection for the sea arose from his father's maritime associations. It had been early determined that he should study law, but the death of his mother while he was yet very young, coupled with differences which subsequently arose with his stepmother, culminated in the lad's determination to adopt a seafaring life. This preference being reluctantly indulged by his father, who furnished him with about three thousand dollars' worth of goods, in 1764, at fourteen years of age, Girard set sail for the French colony of Santo Domingo, as cabin-boy *and part owner of the cargo*.

At the end of six voyages, he had attained the rank of lieutenant, or first mate of the vessel, and on the 4th of October, 1773, he was formally qualified as "Captain, Master, and Patron of a merchant vessel." Thus armed, he sailed from Bordeaux for the last time, which city he never revisited, clearing aboard the ship "La Julie," Captain Mouroux, for St. Marc's, in Santo Domingo, whence he sailed for New York, arriving in February, 1774, that being the first port at which he touched on the Continent of America. There he met Thomas Randall, a merchant of that city, with whom, for the next two years, he traded in partnership between New York, New Orleans, and the West Indies.

During this partnership, the war of the Revolution having supervened, the presence of a British fleet, under Admiral Howe, near the Capes of the Delaware,



THE HOUSE IN WATER STREET.

forced Girard to put into Philadelphia. This port being immediately blockaded, the partnership with Mr. Randall was amicably dissolved, the cargo divided, and

Girard started a store on Water Street, north of Market Street, in Philadelphia, with his share of the unsold goods. Intending to build a ship for himself, with which to renew his cruising when the war with England should have come to an end, he occupied his leisure in planning the vessel (afterward built and named the "Water Witch"), in conjunction with Mr. Lum, a well-known shipbuilder of Philadelphia, frequently visiting the latter's house for that purpose. He thus became well acquainted with the latter's daughter, Mary Lum, a beautiful brunette of sixteen, whose great personal beauty and modest character attracted him so strongly that on the 6th of June, 1777, she became his wife. They were married by the Rev. Mr. Stringer, at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Third below Walnut Street, Philadelphia, and immediately commenced housekeeping at Girard's residence on Water Street. In the following September, Lord Howe threatening the city, Girard removed, with his wife, to a small farm he had purchased at Mount Holly, New Jersey, where he remained until 1779, meanwhile taking the oath of allegiance to the United States.

In February of 1780, he entered into a partnership of short duration with Joseph Baldesqui, "formerly a paymaster in the Legion of Count Pulaski," which was dissolved in 1782, and in 1784, his business having greatly prospered, he built a second vessel, which,

out of compliment to his brother Jean, was named the "Two Brothers." In 1786, however, was formed the chief and last partnership into which Girard ever entered. This was with his brother Jean, who resided in Santo Domingo, and lasted with much mutual profit until 1789, at which time it was terminated under the articles of copartnership, and not thereafter renewed. Girard is said to have received as his share of the partnership assets, thirty thousand dollars, and his brother sixty thousand.

In August of 1790, his wife, who had previously, in 1785, shown signs of melancholia, arising from her childless condition, and who had apparently recovered, having been treated at home, relapsed, and, under medical advice, was sent for treatment to the Pennsylvania Hospital, at Eighth and Spruce Streets, the only hospital in Philadelphia at that time which received such patients for treatment. Here, in the following March, she gave birth to a daughter, immediately baptized with the name "Mary," which was at once sent to the country in the care of Mrs. John Hatcher, where, however, it survived but a few months. Mrs. Girard was "pleasantly situated on the first floor of the main building, in a spacious and comfortable apartment, with parlor attached," where she was "allowed to receive visitors with the fewest restrictions possible," and where "her little nieces, Jean's

daughters, frequently came to see her." She remained, well cared for but uncured, in that institution until her death in September, 1815.

This was the heaviest blow of Girard's life. But he sought distraction by keeping his mind unceasingly busy during his hours of wakefulness, and he plunged with ardor into the construction of several ships, designed for the Eastern trade. These ships, six in number, named, in the order of their building, "Voltaire," "Helvetius," "Good Friends" (referring to his associations with his brother Jean), "Montesquieu," "Rousseau," and "North America," were equipped with all the latest improvements in shipbuilding, and for them he planned cruises extending over long periods of time, and embracing ports in all quarters of the globe. Calcutta, Canton, Saint Petersburg, and Amsterdam were often touched at in a single voyage, and the idea found many imitators among his competitors, until American commerce was overthrown by the war of 1812. It was upon one of these vessels that the survivors of the frightful massacres of the Santo Domingo slave uprising of 1793 escaped from that desolated island, bringing with them many valuables, the owners of such as remained unclaimed having subsequently long been advertised for by Girard.

Girard was now forty-three years old, and, being little understood by his fellow-citizens, was generally

considered a man of impenetrable reserve. An occasion was about to arise, however, which divested him in part of this appearance, and publicly displayed the natural benevolence of his character, for in the late summer of 1793 the yellow fever broke out within one square of his residence and spread with appalling rapidity. The Government offices and officials were removed to Germantown; every one who could, fled. Three out of four of the daily papers were discontinued. People walked in the middle of the street to avoid contagion, and shrunk back with affright at even the offer of a hand. At night the watcher would hear at his neighbor's door the cry, "Bring out your dead!" And the dead were brought. Unwept over, unprayed for, they were wrapped in the sheet in which they died, and thrown into a great pit, the rich and the poor together. It is not probable that London, at the last stage of the plague, exhibited stronger marks of terror than were to be seen in Philadelphia. Doctors were dead, nurses had deserted the city, and finally nearly one-fifth of the entire population that had remained in the city had died.

In the midst of this terrific pestilence, Stephen Girard "offered himself the forlorn hope of the dead and dying," and, aided by Peter Helm, took charge of the Bush Hill Hospital, whither the plague-stricken victims were brought by thousands, often in his own

arms and in his own carriage. All through the summer and autumn the fever ravaged the city, and when its force became spent against the coming winter, Girard still labored at sanitary precautions designed to cope with its probable return the following summer, and occupied himself with the care of the orphans, many of them infants, whose natural protectors had perished in the plague.

In 1794 a public meeting of citizens passed resolutions presenting "their most cordial, grateful, and fraternal thanks" to Girard, "under whose meritorious exertions and peculiar care, in conjunction with Peter Helm, comfort was provided for the sick, and decent burial for those whom their efforts could not preserve from the ravages of the prevailing distemper." Twice afterward, in 1797 and 1798, under renewed visitations of the fever, Girard repeated these efforts, in addition relieving the sick and destitute by personal supervision and gifts of money.

For twenty-one years he was a Port Warden of Philadelphia, and in 1799 was appointed one of the Commissioners to receive subscriptions for the City Water-Works, at Broad and Market Streets. In 1802 he was elected to Common Council, and in 1808 was returned with more votes than any other candidate on the ticket. He also served in the Select Branch in 1819.

In 1811, the charter of the old Bank of the United States having expired, Girard purchased the building and entire outfit, and established "The Bank of



THE CHAPEL.

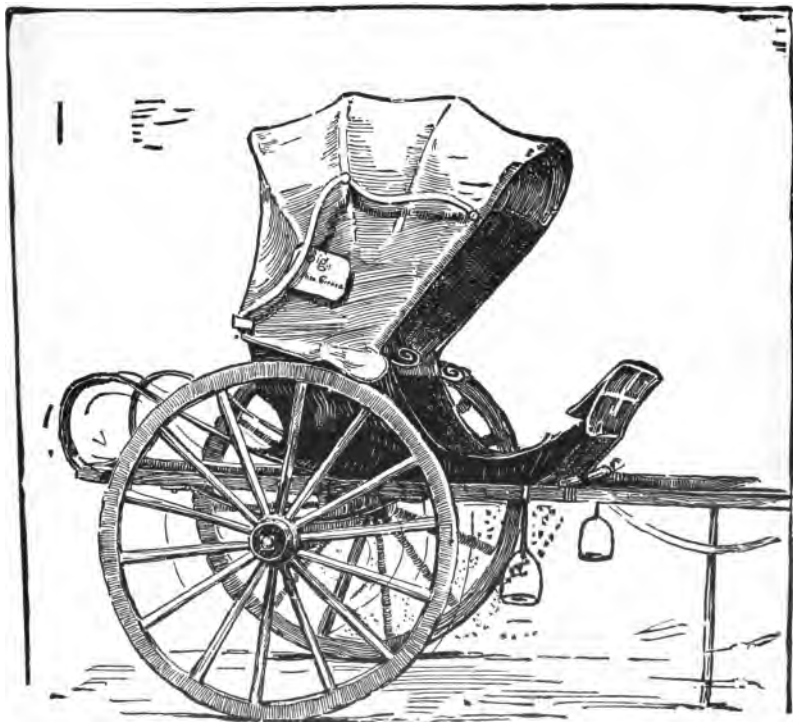
Stephen Girard." During the whole war of 1812 this bank was the very right hand of the national credit, having, at the crisis of that struggle, taken the whole

national loan of five millions, which was upon the point of failure. "The effect was instantaneous and electrical. Those who had shrunk from it as a gulf of ruin now rushed forward, clamorous for a share. The sinews of war thus furnished, and public confidence restored, a series of brilliant victories resulted in peace."

In 1829 the State of Pennsylvania found itself upon the verge of bankruptcy, the Legislature having recklessly appropriated large sums for internal improvements which more than exhausted the treasury. A special session of the Legislature was called, but before it could convene it became impossible for the State to obtain credit even for necessary daily outlays. In alarm, Governor Shulze sought an interview with Girard, who unhesitatingly advanced one hundred thousand dollars, upon the sole credit of the Executive. When it is remembered that a disavowal by the Legislature of the Governor's authority would have caused the loss of the whole sum, the patriotism and public spirit of this action will be comprehended.

This was the last public act of Girard's life. He had reached his eightieth year, and, although his attention to his private business was unrelaxed, his eyesight had grown so dim he could scarcely walk the streets in safety. In February of 1830, a furiously driven wagon struck and threw him down in the

streets, the wheel passing over his head, terribly lacerating it, and injuring his remaining eye. He reached home unaided, but inflammation ensued, which con-



STEPHEN GIRARD'S GIG.

fined him to bed for a long period, and the subsequent marked diminution of his vigor warned him to prepare for that last vital change his advanced years indicated could not long be delayed. In April of 1830, how-

ever, he purchased the large tracts of coal land in Schuylkill County which now form a large portion of his estate, and in July, 1831, accepted a trusteeship to purchase and hold the land upon which is located the Merchants' Exchange, at Third, Walnut, and Dock Streets, the last position of honor which his increasing feebleness permitted him to accept.

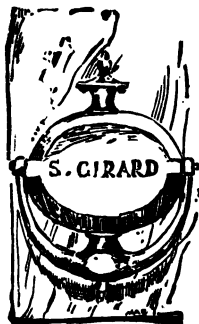
In December of that year he was attacked with an influenza then epidemic in Philadelphia, from the effects of which he died at four o'clock in the afternoon of December 26th, 1831, in the third floor of his Water Street mansion, aged eighty-one years and seven months, less five days.

Resolutions of regret were adopted by the City Councils, and citizens were requested to close their windows along the route passed over by his funeral procession, which was attended by all the civic bodies, the Masonic fraternity, and almost innumerable societies and associations, and by the entire City Watch in mourning, constituting the longest funeral procession ever before known in Philadelphia, while the flags on public buildings and on the shipping in the river were displayed at half-mast, to indicate the sincere sorrow of the entire city of Philadelphia.

Girard was buried in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, at Sixth and Spruce Streets, in the vault of Baron Henry Dominick Lallemant,

General of Artillery under Napoleon Bonaparte, who had married one of Girard's nieces, and there his body remained until September 30th, 1851, at which time it was removed to the College, where it now reposes in the marble sarcophagus in the vestibule of the main entrance.

"Splendid as is the structure which stands above his remains, it yields in beauty to the moral monument. The benefactor sleeps among the orphan poor whom his bounty is constantly rearing. Thus, forever present, unseen but felt, he daily stretches forth his invisible hands to lead some friendless child from ignorance and vice to usefulness, and, perhaps, distinction. And when, in the fullness of time, many homes have been made happy, many orphans have been fed, clothed, and educated, and many men rendered useful to their country and themselves, each happy home, or rescued child, or useful citizen will be a living monument to perpetuate the name and embalm the memory of the dead 'Mariner and Merchant.'"



EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL OF STEPHEN GIRARD, DATED
FEB. 16, 1830, RELATING TO THE COLLEGE AND ITS
ADMINISTRATION.

"TWENTIETH.—And, Whereas, I have been for a long time impressed with the importance of educating the poor, and of placing them, by the early cultivation of their minds and the development of their moral principles, above the many temptations to which, through poverty and ignorance, they are exposed ; and I am particularly desirous to provide for such a number of poor, male, white, orphan children as can be trained in one institution, a better education, as well as a more comfortable maintenance, than they generally receive from the application of the public funds.—Now, I do give, devise and bequeath all the residue and remainder of my real and personal estate of every sort and kind, wheresoever situate,—unto 'Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Philadelphia,' their successors and assigns, in trust, to and for the several uses, intents and purposes hereinafter mentioned and declared of and concerning the same, that is to say :—

TWENTY-FIRST.—And so far as regards the residue of my personal estate, in trust, as to two million of dollars, part thereof to apply and expend so much of that sum as may be necessary in erecting, as soon as practicably may be, in the centre of my square of ground between High (Market) and Chestnut Streets, and 11th and 12th Streets, in the City of Philadelphia, (which square of ground, I hereby devote for the purposes hereinafter stated, and for no other forever) a permanent college, with suitable outbuildings, sufficiently spacious for the residence and accommodation of, at least, three hundred scholars, and the requisite teachers and other persons necessary in such an institution as I direct to be established ; and in supplying the said college and outbuildings with decent and suitable furniture, as well as books and all things needful to carry into effect my general design."

The testator here adverts in minutest detail to the architectural construction of the college. He adds :

"In minute particulars not here mentioned, utility and good taste should determine. There should be at least four outbuildings detached from the main edifice and from each other and in such position as shall at once answer the purposes of the institution and be consistent with the symmetry of the whole establishment. Each building should be as

far as practicable, devoted to a distinct purpose; in one or more of those buildings in which they may be most useful, I direct my executors to place my plate and furniture of every sort.

When the college and appurtenances shall have been constructed and supplied with plain and suitable furniture and books, philosophical and experimental instruments and apparatus and all other matter needful to carry my general design into execution, the income, issues and profits, of so much of said sum of two millions of dollars, as shall remain unexpended, shall be applied to maintain the said college according to my directions.

First.—The institution shall be organized as soon as practicable.—

Second.—A competent number of instructors, teachers, assistants and other necessary agents shall be selected and when needful, their places, from time to time, supplied. They shall receive adequate compensation for their services, but no person shall be employed who shall not be of tried skill in his or her proper department, of established moral character, and in all cases persons shall be chosen on account of their merit, and not through favor or intrigue.

Third.—As many poor, white, male, orphans, between the ages of six and ten years, as the said income shall be adequate to maintain, shall be introduced into the college as soon as possible; and from time to time, as there may be vacancies, or as increased ability from income may warrant, others shall be introduced.

Fourth.—On the application for admission, an accurate statement shall be taken in a book prepared for the purpose of the name, birth-place, age, health, condition as to relatives, and other particulars useful to be known of each orphan.

Fifth.—No orphan should be admitted until the guardians or directors of the poor or a proper guardian or other competent authority shall have given, by indenture, relinquishment or otherwise, adequate power to the 'Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Philadelphia' or to directors or others by them appointed, to enforce in relation to each orphan every proper restraint, and to prevent relatives or others from interfering with or withdrawing such orphans from the institution.

Sixth.—Those orphans, for whose admission application shall first be made, shall be first introduced, all other things concurring—and at all future times, priority of application shall entitle the applicant to preference in admission, all other things concurring; but if there shall be at any time more applicants than vacancies and the applying

orphans shall have been born in different places, a preference shall be given: *First*.—To orphans born in the City of Philadelphia. *Secondly*.—To those born in any other part of Pennsylvania. *Thirdly*.—To those born in the City of New York (that being the first port on the continent of North America, at which I arrived), and, *Lastly*.—To those born in the City of New Orleans (being the first port of said continent at which I first traded, in the first instance as first officer and subsequently as master and part owner of a vessel and cargo).

Seventh.—The orphans admitted into the college shall be fed with plain but wholesome food, clothed with plain but decent apparel (no distinctive dress ever to be worn) and lodged in a plain but safe manner. Due regard shall be paid to their health, and to this end their persons and clothes shall be kept clean and they shall have suitable and rational exercise and recreation. They shall be instructed in the various branches of a sound education, comprehending reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, geography, navigation, surveying, practical mathematics, astronomy, natural, chemical, and experimental philosophy, the French and Spanish languages, (I do not forbid but I do not recommend the Greek and Latin languages) and such other learning and science as the capacities of the several scholars may merit or warrant *I would have them taught facts and things rather than words and signs*. And especially I desire that by every proper means a pure attachment to our republican institutions and to the sacred rights of conscience, as guaranteed by our happy constitutions, shall be formed and fostered in the minds of the scholars

Eighth.—Should it unfortunately happen that any of the orphans admitted in the college shall from misconduct have become unfit companions for the rest and mild means of reformation prove abortive, they should no longer remain therein.

Ninth.—Those scholars who shall merit it, shall remain in the college until they shall respectively arrive at between fourteen and eighteen years of age. They shall then be bound out by the 'Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of Philadelphia' or under their direction, to suitable occupations, as those of agriculture, navigation, arts mechanical trades and manufactures according to the capacities and acquirements of the scholars, respectively, consulting as far as prudence shall justify it, the inclination of the several scholars as to the occupation, art or trade to be learned.—

"There are, however, some restrictions which I consider it my duty to prescribe and to be, amongst others, conditions on which my bequest for said college is made and to be enjoyed ; namely,—*Secondly*, I enjoin and require that no ecclesiastic, missionary or minister of any sect whatsoever, shall ever hold or exercise any station or duty whatever in the said college ; nor shall any such person ever be admitted for any purpose, or as a visitor, within the premises appropriated to the purposes of the said college. In making this restriction, I do not mean to cast any reflection upon any sect or person whatsoever ; but, as there is such a multitude of sects, and such a diversity of opinion amongst them, *I desire to keep the tender minds of the orphans, who are to derive advantage from this bequest, free from the excitement which clashing doctrines and sectarian controversy are so apt to produce ;* my desire is that all the instructors and teachers in the college shall take pains to instill into the minds of the scholars *the purest principles of morality*, so that on their entrance into active life they may from inclination and habit evince benevolence towards their fellow creatures and love of truth, sobriety, and industry, adopting at the same time such religious tenets as their matured reason may enable them to prefer."

Sixteen months later the Testator added a codicil, dated 20th day of June, 1831, to his will, changing the site of the intended college to :

"The Mansion House and out-buildings and forty-five acres and some perches of land, called Peel Hall, on the Ridge Road, in Penn Township, and I hereby devote the said estate to that purpose exclusively in the same manner as I have devoted the said square, hereby directing that all the improvements and arrangements for the said Orphan Establishment prescribed by my said Will as to said Square, shall be made and executed upon the said Estate just as if I had in my Will devoted the said Estate to said purpose."

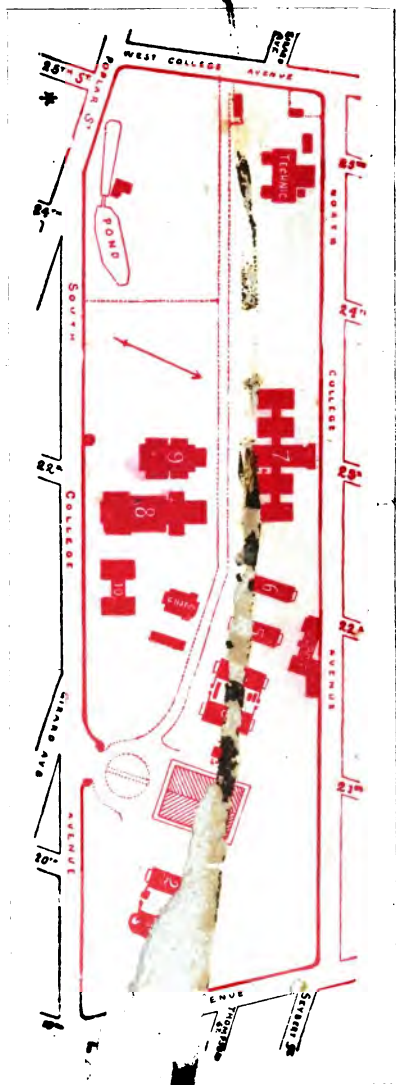
STEPHEN GIRARD.





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MAP OF GIRARD COLLEGE GROUNDS.





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